

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons which follow.

Claims 1-10 are requested to be cancelled.

Claims 11 and 12 are being added.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, are presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 11 and 12 are now pending in this application.

In the Office Action, claims 1-3 and 5-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Applicant has cancelled these claims, as well as claim 4, without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant introduces new claims 11 and 12 and submits that, for at least the reasons set forth herein, these claims are patentable over the cited prior art references.

The new claim 11 includes limitations of cancelled claims 6 and 7 and further recites "a projection projecting from a face of said one of the teeth to an inner section of the slot." The subject matter of claim 11 is illustrated, for example, in figure 6 of the present application and in paragraphs [0049]-[0053]. The projection recited in claim 11 refers, in figure 6, to element 26.

Claim 11 also recites a stopper which has two functions: (a) supporting a closing member 44 in cooperation with the projection 26 in order to form a cooling passage, and (b) defining a coiling region through which a coil is wound and thus supporting the coil directly in contact with the coil.

The stopper 27 is not the same as the stopper disclosed in Abukawa (US6,335,582). First, the stopper of Abukawa does not directly support a coil

because it is not in contact with the coil. Second, the stopper of Abukawa is not for supporting a closing member to form a cooling passage. The stopper of Abukawa supports a wedge 13 to prevent the stator windings 5 from falling down and to electrically insulate the stator windings 5. It should be noted that the aim of the invention of Abukawa is not to form a cooling passage.

Further, in claim 11, the projection 26 which projects from a tooth supports the closing member 44 in cooperation with the stopper 27. The closing member is tightly supported by a groove formed between the projection and the stopper. This structure (which is not disclosed by the references) is well-suited to form a cooling passage without leaking coolant. This structure cannot be derived from the combination of the stopper of Abukawa and the cooling structure of McCabria because the stopper of Abukawa is not intended for forming a cooling passage.

Claim 12 depends from independent claim 11 and is supported at, for example, figure 6 and the description about the under plate 43 in paragraph [0046]. In the new claim 12, the closing member 44 is disposed in contact with the coil to support the coil. The arrangement of the closing member 44 further narrows the cross-sectional area of the cooling passage in the slot.

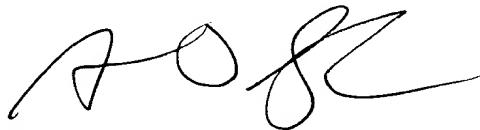
Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing,

the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,



Date

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